

Message Text

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TAGS: EINV, ETRN, ELAB, PINT, CA

SUBJECT: STRONG LABOR/POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO GREYHOUND BUS ROUTES

1. THE DECISION BY ONTARIO HIGHWAY TRANSPORT BOARD TO ALLOW GREYHOUND LINES OF CANADA LIMITED TO OPERATE EXPRESS BUSES TORONTO-BUFFALO AND TORONTO-SUDBURY HAS CAUSED STRONG REACTION FROM COMPETING GRAY COACH LINES LIMITED, AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION, OPPOSITION PROVINCIAL NEW DEMOCRAT AND LIBERAL PARTIES.

2. GRAY COACH LINES, A SUBSIDIARY OF THE PUBLICLY-OWNED TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION (TTC), FEARS THAT COMPETITION ON TWO PROFITABLE ROUTES WILL ENDANGER ITS FUTURE AS IT OPERATES MANY UNPROFITABLE ROUTES TO RURAL ONTARIO AS PUBLIC SERVICE. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS THAT THE TTC WOULD TRY TO SELL GRAY COACH IF GREYHOUND IS PERMITTED TO KEEP ITS LICENSES.

3. THE AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION, LOCAL 113, TOOK LARGE ADS IN ALL THREE TORONTO NEWSPAPERS DECEMBER 2 AND IN A STATEMENT ADDRESSED "TO ALL RESIDENTS OF ONTARIO" ASKED THAT CITIZENS CONTACT THEIR RESPECTIVE MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT TO OBJECT TO THE LICENSES GRANTED TO CANADAIN GREYHOUND. "TELEGRAMS TO PREMIER WILLIAM DAVIS OF ONTARIO HAVE GONE UNANSWERED AND IT APPEARS HE DOES NOT WISH TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM. ONLY ACTION BY THE CABINET OF THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT CAN STOP THE

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DESTRUCTION OF THIS COMPANY WHICH IN EFFECT IS OWNED BY THE

PEOPLE OF THIS PROVINCE. IF GREYHOUND HAD ATTEMPTED TO BUY GRAY COACH LINES, IT IS EXTREMELY LIKELY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE DISALLOWED SUCH PURCHASE AS NOT BEING IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CANADIANS. THE GOVERNMENT OF PREMIER DAVIS IS IN EFFECT DESTROYING A CANADIAN COMPANY FOR THE BENEFIT OF AMERICAN PRIVATE INTERESTS."

4. AT PRESENT THERE IS THE THREAT THAT TTC WORKERS WILL GO ON STRIKE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, AS A DAY OF PROTEST AGAINST THE GREYHOUND LICENSES. RAIO REPORTS DECEMBER 3 SUGGEST ALSO THAT THERE MAY BE WILDCAT STRIKES IN THE TTC SHOPS AGAINST THE GREYHOUND EQUIPMENT. THESE REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE TTC HAS THE SERVICE CONTRACT FOR GREYHOUND IN TORONTO.

5. OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRAT PARTY LEADER STEPHEN LEWIS ON DEC. 2 ASKED THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TO HEAR SUBMISSIONS FROM THE TTC, UNIONS AND CITIZENS REGARDING THE GREYHOUND LICENSE DECISION. ON DECEMBER 1, LIBERAL LEADER STUART SMITH SAID THE LICENSE DECISION WAS AN "ABSOLUTELY CRAZY AND IRRESPONSIBLE" WAY TO TRY TO END DISSATISFACTION WITH THE PRESENT BUS SERVICE" BY SELLING OUT THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO AN AMERICAN COMPANY."

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